

say we greatly appreciate all of Michael's dedicated effort. We thank Michael for a job well done and we wish him every success in his bright future.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRUCE W. CARTER VA MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Representative FREDERICA WILSON, to recognize 50 years of service to our Veterans in South Florida. The Miami VA Medical Center, renamed the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center in 2008, held its ribbon cutting on May 5, 1968. Originally a 630,000 square foot facility, the facility has nearly doubled in size to care for more than 57,000 Veterans per year in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties.

The Miami VA Healthcare System is an accredited comprehensive medical provider, providing general medical, surgical, inpatient and outpatient mental health services. Recognized as a Center of Excellence in Spinal Cord Injury Research and Substance Abuse Treatment, it also houses an AIDS/HIV center, a prosthetic treatment center, spinal cord injury rehabilitative center, chest pain center, and Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC). Additionally, the Miami VA Medical Center was home to the first nursing home in the VA System.

Mr. Speaker, as a parent facility, the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center supports 8 VA clinics from Key West to Deerfield Beach. These include two major satellite Outpatient Clinics, five Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and four Readjustment Counseling Centers, or Vet Centers. These Miami VA Healthcare System facilities serve our Veterans through their more than 750,000 visits each year.

We join together to recognize the Miami VA Healthcare System and its continued service on behalf of our Veterans. We support the Miami VA Healthcare System in its mission to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and wellness.

ETHAN GARCIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ethan Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ethan Garcia is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ethan Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ethan Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 167 and 168 on Monday, May 7, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREG REED

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Greg Reed, band teacher at Fredericksburg Christian School and Commander of the Enduring Freedom Honor Team.

Under Greg's leadership, the Honor Team performs 30–50 events annually at a variety of different venues including the National D-Day Memorial; the National Museum of the Marine Corps; the Pentagon; Walter Reed Army Hospital; National Naval Medical Center; the Capitol; National Mall; and countless VA hospitals. The group has received recognition from military installations and the Virginia House of Delegates. Additionally, they support the Honor Flight Program, performing for more than 500 World War II and Korean War veterans as they visit the nation's Capital and the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Greg enjoys watching his students interact with veterans and grow from these experiences. The Honor Team's main missions are to bring awareness, gratefulness, and recognition to the United States Military and their families' sacrifices, past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Greg for his leadership and continued desire to give back to veterans.

HONORING BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the commu-

nity, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethel AME has served as a catalyst for the African American growth in Yazoo County and the State of Mississippi.

Organized in 1868, Bethel is the oldest African American congregation in Yazoo City. Designed by A.S. King, Bethel A.M.E. is one of the earliest brick churches built by African Americans in Mississippi, and is the only downtown Yazoo City church building left standing after the fire of 1904. Although the building has had alterations, Bethel retains its historic Romanesque Revival tower, whose steeple is clad in sheet metal panels stamped to resemble shingles.

A group of African Americans first began worshipping in what was known as "The Market" shortly after Emancipation. The vision of the church at its current location began on May 29, 1874 when the church acquired the property at 214 S. Monroe Street. According to church history the building was erected under the leadership of Rev. Dangerfield.

One original piece that strikes a chord with its long time members is the bell inside the steeple. The bell is still very present in the hearts of church members. The bell could be heard throughout the community sending sounds of joy, fellowship and worship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church for its rich heritage and dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

AREZ GHAFOUR

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arez Ghafour for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Arez Ghafour is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Arez Ghafour is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Arez Ghafour for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EVAN H. JENKINS**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 167 and YEA on Roll Call No. 168.

# RECOGNIZING WILDERNESS INQUIRY'S FORTY YEARS OF OUTDOOR EXPLORATION AND INCLUSION

## HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Wilderness Inquiry as it begins a year of celebration of its 40th anniversary with a May 7th celebration in the Minnesota State Capitol rotunda. A Minnesota nonprofit, Wilderness Inquiry is a national treasure, serving as a portal to the natural wonder around us—from right in our backyard to across the globe. During its first 40 years, Wilderness Inquiry has provided outdoor adventures for more than half-a-million people of all ages, backgrounds and physical abilities. Their work is defined by the understanding that our natural world belongs to all of us, and we can all enjoy and benefit from time shared together in the great outdoors.

A lifelong passion for the outdoors led two new 1978 college graduates named Greg Lais and Paul Schurke to be trailblazers in organizing expeditions for all. The success of an earlier week-long trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness with a group of people with a variety of physical abilities served as inspiration for a bold new nonprofit that could offer true wilderness adventures to everyone. "Wilderness Inquiry" was born, and under Greg's ongoing leadership, has grown to offer an incredible assortment of trips, both around the nation and across the world, that welcome people from all walks of life and all abilities. Whether it's a first canoeing trip down a local river, camping in a national park, or exploring the farthest reaches of the world, Wilderness Inquiry empowers everyone to access adventures. Their amazing team of staff and outdoor leaders create trips that are fun, memorable and life-changing for students, families and business teams alike.

The strength of Wilderness Inquiry is that it doesn't do it alone. Through partnerships with more than 100 organizations, they fulfill their mission to share the outdoors with everyone. I am particularly proud of Wilderness Inquiry's collaboration with U.S. Interior Department agencies like the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on its Canoemobile initiative. This "floating classroom" works with urban cities and school districts, countless volunteers and other organizations to bring students from all backgrounds out on waterways around the country in beautiful, hand-crafted 24-foot Voyageur canoes to learn about science, history, geography and culture.

Braving the wilderness doesn't come naturally to everyone. It takes courage to step outside our comfort zones. Wilderness Inquiry offers the support and opportunity for everyone to make this leap. Through these shared adventures, presumptions are challenged, people grow, and community is strengthened. I can vouch for the fact that these adventures are fun. But the best proof is in the smiling faces of the more than 40,000 people that Wilderness Inquiry serves each year.

It's no surprise that over the years Wilderness Inquiry has received numerous awards in recognition of their unwavering commitment to

people with disabilities, underserved youth, outdoor education, and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to recognize Wilderness Inquiry on their 40th anniversary and commending the passion and dedication of so many volunteers, staff, board members and partners for their efforts in providing outdoor opportunities for all.

## IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF CHARLES "CHUCK" J. WEIR

## HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. Chuck Weir, who recently passed away at the age of 86, just hours before his 87th birthday. As a resident of Leesburg, Virginia, Chuck devoted his life to his family and public service, living as a selfless community servant. He was dedicated to his beloved wife of 57 years, the late Darlene Weir and together they raised four children, Sue Ellen Jones, Maureen Kay Woods, Gregory Allen Weir, and Jeffery Charles Weir.

Chuck was a respected leader in the Commonwealth who brought honor and integrity to everything he did. His deep passion for service left an impression on every person he met. During the Korean War, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, receiving an honorable discharge as a Staff Sergeant. Chuck carried a passionate spirit throughout this world and always shared it unto his colleagues.

Upon completing his undergraduate degree, Chuck taught junior high school in Oregon. In 1957, he returned to service in the USMC with a commission as a Second Lieutenant. Chuck thoroughly enjoyed his 17 years as an officer in the Marine Corps. He retired as a Major in 1970 due to combat disability after he was seriously wounded during his service in Vietnam. Chuck was awarded a Purple Heart for his injuries. He also received his MPA in Computer Science from American University in 1970. His second career as a civil servant for the United States Government was cut short due to another injury that left him permanently disabled in 1976.

Chuck then devoted his life as a citizen who profoundly impacted our community. He was selfless and dedicated to bettering the world around him. He served on the school board for the Falls Church City Public Schools. He was a member and President of the Homeowner Association boards where he lived in Oakton and Lansdowne, Virginia. Chuck had a drive and a passion to support the people and causes he held dear. He also served the youth of his community as a member and President of the Arlington Optimist Club. Chuck served as a member of the C&O Canal National Park Commission for 21 years, making sure that this hometown National Park was preserved and protected for all to enjoy. He was honored to serve veterans as a member and President of the board for the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem, Virginia.

Chuck was an architect of the Republican party and we will forever be grateful for his service. He was a member of the committee for President Ronald Reagan's inauguration.

Chuck was the Republican Party's 10th Congressional District Chairman in Northern Virginia. He was also a Virginia delegate to the Republican National Convention, and he served on the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia.

In all passions, Chuck was enthusiastic about serving people. His presence was noticed by more than just his friends and family as he always displayed wisdom and strength and constantly mentored those around him. His heart was sincere, and his legacy serves as inspiration for others to also endure in public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me as we recognize the many contributions of Chuck Weir. The impact he has had on the Commonwealth of Virginia and to our country will never be forgotten, and I offer our deepest condolences to the Weir family.

## BRADY A. HACKBARTH

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brady A. Hackbarth for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Brady A. Hackbarth is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brady A. Hackbarth is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brady A. Hackbarth for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

## HONORING NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

## HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 6 through 12, 2018 as National Travel and Tourism Week in Napa County, California, an occasion to commemorate, congratulate and celebrate the people who work in tourism and hospitality.

Travelers and their spending are essential to Napa County's, and all of California's, economy. The tourism and hospitality industries are responsible for strengthening the economy in California's Fifth Congressional District. Tourism is the second largest industry in Napa County and supports over 13,000 jobs in our community, mainly in the restaurant, hotel and retail sectors. In 2016, 3.5 million visitors to the Napa Valley spent nearly \$2 billion, an increase of 17.5 percent from 2014. This spending generated over \$80 million in tax revenues